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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/272,467	03/19/99	KOJIMA	H WNX3.0-008

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EXAMINER

JONES, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

9

DATE MAILED:

11/13/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/272,467

Applicant(s)

KOJIMA, HIDEO

Examiner

Scott E. Jones

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☒ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) ____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 32 is objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.75 (e)(2) because the preamble lacks a proper transitional phrase. It is suggested that the applicant use the following language in the said claim; "A computer-readable recording medium storing a program, said program comprising the steps of:" In addition, the applicant should refer back to claims 1, 9, and 21 for proper claim structure and language usage. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, lines 4-5, the phrase "...stopped in a moveable state..." is vague and indefinite. It is suggested that the applicant review this statement and provide a clear description of that hereinabove. The items noted hereinabove are repeated throughout the application, particularly in independent claims 9, 21, and 32. It is suggested that the applicant review the entire application to ensure that the claims are clear and definite.

Claims 10-20 inherit the deficiencies of claim 9 by dependency.

Art Unit: 3713

Claims 22-31 inherit the deficiencies of claim 21 by dependency.

Claims 33-42 inherit the deficiencies of claim 32 by dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 1, 9, 19-20, 32, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Goden et al. Goden et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,830,066) discloses an image processing method executed by a computer (video game) that detects the display position and motion of a character controlled by a player via inputs from a joystick and push buttons on the display unit, and based on the detected display position and motion provides one or more of several display images to be displayed on the display unit according to claim 1 and figures 1 and 2. Figures 5(a) through 5(f) show scene images from a character's perspective, a bird's eye view, bird's eye view and motion of character (radar), and a radar image. In figure 2, Goden et al. also teaches of computer hardware consisting of RAM and ROM that stores the image element data required to produce scene and character images in three dimensional computer graphics. Additionally, Goden et al. discloses in figure 2 that the invention also comprises a sound system controlled by the game computer.

Art Unit: 3713

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2, 11, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. Goden et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,830,066) teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 1, 9, 19-20, 32, and 39. The patent to Goden et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein a movement command is accepted when producing a bird's eye view and intrude mode scene image, while the movement command is unacceptable when producing a scene image from the character's view point. Goden et al. discloses that a joystick and three pushbuttons are provided in the video game operating panel such that a player can manipulate a character. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to only accept a movement command in views that show the character and its surroundings giving the player a better opportunity to guide his/her character around upcoming obstacles. A movement command in the bird's eye view would be impractical if the view point is away from the character, that is, the view point is in the air and turned 180 degrees away from the character.

9. Claims 3-5, 12-13, 15, 35, and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Rieder. Goden et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,830,066) teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 1, 9, 19-20, 32, and 39. The patent to Goden et al.

Art Unit: 3713

meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein a character is detected behind a wall and can not be seen, a scene image is then produced objectively viewing the character. The patent to Rieder (U.S. Patent # 5,769,718) discloses in the abstract a processing method that detects a character behind a wall and produces an image such that the wall is transparent, thereby displaying all objects behind the wall, in addition to the image produced from the player's point of view. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to modify Goden et al.'s game device to display objects located behind walls or obstacles along the road before they dash out as impediments for a player to maneuver a vehicle around making a game more fun and challenging.

10. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Rieder as applied to claims 3-5, 12-13, 15, 35, and 37-38 listed above in further view of Mukojima et al. Goden et al. in view of Rieder teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 3-5, 12-13, 15, 35, and 37-38. Goden et al. in view of Rieder does not explicitly disclose that different sound effects are produced depending on the viewpoint displayed on the display unit. The patent to Mukojima et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,768,393) discloses a processing method that contains a sound source processor unit that controls sound to be generated according to the position and direction of an object according to claim 1. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to provide sound effects in the game device of Goden et al. in view of Rieder resembling gun fire when ambushed by an enemy from the side of the road as shown in figure 20(b) to make a game more intense and real for the player.

Art Unit: 3713

11. Claims 6-7, 16-17, 34 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Logg. Goden et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,830,066) teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 1, 9, 19-20, 32, and 39. The patent to Goden et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with respect to claims 6 and 16 with the exception of the processing method wherein a radar image produced shows the field of vision of the character and enemy. Logg (U.S. Patent # 5,616,031) does have a radar image (figure 4), but remains silent to the field of vision feature that enables a player's character to see an enemies field of vision, in addition to his own, on the radar image displayed on the display unit. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to modify Goden's game device to display a radar image such that the field of vision was in the direction of movement towards an enemy in the same line of sight as the "locking on" mechanism described in Logg to make a game easier to play.

The patent to Goden et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with respect to claims 7, 17, and 40 with the exception of the processing method wherein a radar image changes color when a character gets in the player's field of vision. The patent to Logg (U.S. Patent # 5,616,031) discloses, in column 11, lines 13-15, an image processing method that produces and displays an image on the display unit of a target reticle for "locking on" to airborne targets that changes from red to white when a target is locked on to get the player's attention. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to provide a radar image that changed colors when an opposing vehicle target was within striking distance to get a player's attention to "lock on" and destroy an enemy target in the Goden et al. game.

Art Unit: 3713

The patent to Goden et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with respect to claim 34 with the exception that the change in viewpoints interchangeably between a character's perspective and a bird's eye view perspective are user selectable via an external command. Column 3, lines 5-21 in the patent to Logg discloses user selectable viewpoints. It is widely known in driving games that a player can switch between a bird's eye view and a character's perspective view by manipulating a joystick and push buttons. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention was made, to modify Goden et al.'s game to accept player's inputs from a joystick and push buttons to interchange between a player's perspective and a bird's eye view to give a player an opportunity to see the road and it's surroundings from a different viewpoint.

12. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Logg as applied to claims 6-7, 16-17, 34 and 40 listed above and in further view of Mukojima et al. Goden et al. in view of Logg teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 6-7, 16-17, 34 and 40. Goden et al. in view of Logg does not explicitly disclose that different sound effects are produced depending on the viewpoint displayed on the display unit. The patent to Mukojima et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,768,393) discloses a processing method that contains a sound source processor unit that controls sound to be generated according to the position and direction of an object according to claim 1. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to provide sound effects in the game device of Goden et al. in view of Logg resembling gun fire when ambushed by an enemy from the side of the road as shown in figure 20(b) to make a game more intense and real for the player.

Art Unit: 3713

13. Claim 8, 18, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of "Corpse Killer" (Video Game by 3DO). Goden et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,830,066) teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 1, 9, 19-20, 32, and 39. The patent to Goden et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein a character can selectively choose and use any one item displayed on the display unit and scrolled in sequence. The video game, "Corpse Killer," teaches of a 3DO hand controller that allows a player to scroll through a menu on the bottom of the display unit and change the type of ammunition that the main characters are utilizing to kill the corpses by pressing the "B" button repeatedly. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to modify the game device of Goden et al, to utilize the push buttons on the video game control panel, to scroll through a variety of weapons in sequence, to choose to defend a character upon an ambush by an enemy while driving along the side of the road.

14. Claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. Goden et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,830,066) teaches that as previously discussed above with respect to claims 1, 9, 19-20, 32, and 39. Goden et al., with respect to claims 10, 21 and 33, does not explicitly disclose that different sound effects are produced depending on the viewpoint displayed on the display unit. Additionally, Goden et al. does not explicitly disclose that different sound effects are produced depending on the motion and position of the character nor does he explicitly disclose that different sound effects are produced depending on the scene image displayed on the display unit. The patent to Mukojima et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,768,393) discloses, in claim 1, a processing method that

Art Unit: 3713

contains a sound source processor unit that controls sound to be generated according to the position and direction of an object. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to provide sound effects in the game device of Goden et al. resembling gun fire when ambushed by an enemy from the side of the road as shown in figure 20(b), to make a game more intense and real for the player.

The patent to Goden et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with respect to claim 22 with the exception of the processing method wherein a movement command is accepted when producing a bird's eye view and intrude mode scene image, while the movement command is unacceptable when producing a scene image from the character's view point. Goden et al. discloses that a joystick and three pushbuttons are provided in the video game operating panel such that a player can manipulate a character. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to only accept a movement command in views that show the character and its surroundings giving the player a better opportunity to guide his/her character around upcoming obstacles. A movement command in the bird's eye view would be impractical if the view point is away from the character, that is, the view point is in the air and turned 180 degrees away from the character.

Regarding claims 30-31, Goden et al. already teaches of computer hardware consisting of RAM and ROM that stores the image element data required to produce scene and character images in three dimensional computer graphics.

15. Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. as applied to claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33 listed above and in further view of Rieder. Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. teaches that as discussed above

Art Unit: 3713

with respect to claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33. Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein a character is detected behind a wall and can not be seen, a scene image is then produced objectively viewing the character. The patent to Rieder (U.S. Patent # 5,769,718) discloses in the abstract a processing method that detects a character behind a wall and produces an image such that the wall is transparent, thereby displaying all objects behind the wall, in addition to the image produced from the player's point of view. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to modify Goden et al's game device to display objects located behind walls or obstacles along the road before they dash out as impediments for a player to maneuver a vehicle around making a game more fun and challenging.

16. Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. as applied to claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33 listed above and in further view of Logg. Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33. The patent to Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with respect to claim 26 with the exception of the processing method wherein a radar image produced shows the field of vision of the character and enemy. Logg (U.S. Patent # 5,616,031) does have a radar image (figure 4), but remains silent to the field of vision feature that enables a player's character to see an enemies field of vision, in addition to his own, on the radar image displayed on the display unit. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to modify Goden's game device to display a radar image such that the field of vision was in the

Art Unit: 3713

direction of movement towards an enemy in the same line of sight as the "locking on" mechanism described in Logg to make a game easier to play.

Regarding claim 27, the patent to Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein a radar image changes color when a character gets in the player's field of vision. The patent to Logg (U.S. Patent # 5,616,031) discloses, in column 11, lines 13-15, an image processing method that produces and displays an image on the display unit of a target reticle for "locking on" to airborne targets that changes from red to white when a target is locked on to get the player's attention. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to provide a radar image that changed colors when an opposing vehicle target was within striking distance to get a player's attention to "lock on" and destroy an enemy target in the Goden et al. game.

Regarding claim 28, the patent to Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein different sound effects are produced depending on what scene image is displayed. The patent to Mukojima et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,768,393) discloses a processing method that contains a sound source processor unit that controls sound to be generated according to the position and direction of an object. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the application, to generate a gradually louder sound as an opposing vehicle drove toward an opposing character to make a game seem more realistic.

17. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. as applied to claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33 listed above and in further

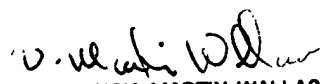
Art Unit: 3713

view of "Corpse Killer" (Video Game by 3DO). Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. teaches that as discussed above with respect to claims 10, 21-22, 30-31, and 33. The patent to Goden et al. in view of Mukojima et al. meets all of the applicant's claimed subject matter with the exception of the processing method wherein a character can selectively choose and use any one item displayed on the display unit and scrolled in sequence. The video game, "Corpse Killer," teaches of a 3DO hand controller that allows a player to scroll through a menu on the bottom of the display unit and change the type of ammunition that the main characters are utilizing to kill the corpses by pressing the "B" button repeatedly. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the applicant's invention, to modify the game device of Goden et al, to utilize the push buttons on the video game control panel, to scroll through a variety of weapons in sequence, to choose to defend a character upon an ambush by an enemy while driving along the side of the road.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott E. Jones whose telephone number is (703) 308-7133. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (703) 308-1118. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1118.


VALENCIA MARTIN-WALLACE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Application/Control Number: 09/272,467

Page 13

Art Unit: 3713

Scott E. Jones
Examiner
Art Unit 3713

SEJ
November 3, 2000